Critical temperature of antikaon condensation in nuclear matter

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Abstract

We investigate the critical temperature of Bose-Einstein condensation of K^- mesons in neutron star matter. This is studied within the framework of relativistic field theoretical models at finite temperature where nucleon-nucleon and (anti)kaon-nucleon interactions are mediated by the exchange of mesons. The melting of the antikaon condensate is studied for different values of antikaon optical potential depths. We find that the critical temperature of antikaon condensation increases with baryon number density. Further it is noted that the critical temperature is lowered as antikaon optical potential becomes less attractive. We also construct the phase diagram of neutron star matter with K^- condensate.

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I. INTRODUCTION

In the pioneering work of Kaplan and Nelson [1], it was demonstrated within the $SU(3)_L \times SU(3)_R$ chiral perturbation theory that antikaon (K^- meson) condensation might be possible in dense baryonic matter formed in heavy ion collisions as well as in neutron stars. The underlying idea is that the Bose-Einstein condensation of K^- mesons is driven by the strongly attractive K^--nucleon interaction. Consequently, the attractive antikaon-nucleon interaction reduces the effective mass (m_K^*) and in-medium energy (ω_{K-}) of K^- mesons. The s-wave K^- condensation sets in when ω_{K-} equals to the K^- chemical potential μ_{K^-} which, in turn, is equal to the electron chemical potential μ_e for neutron (neutrino-free) star matter in β equilibrium. The threshold density for K^- condensation which sensitively depends on the nuclear equation of state (EoS) and the strength of the attractive antikaon optical potential depth, is about $(2-4)n_0$, where n_0 is the normal nuclear matter density.

There was considerable interest in the study of the properties of kaons (K) and antikaons ($\bar{K}$) in dense nuclear matter as well as neutron star matter after the work of Kaplan and Nelson. Antikaon condensation in neutron star interior was studied in great details in the chiral perturbation theory [2, 3, 4, 5, 6] as well as meson exchange model [7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16]. The net effect of K^- condensation in neutron star matter is to soften the EoS leading to a smaller maximum mass neutron star than that of the case without the condensate.

There is a growing interplay between the physics of dense matter formed in heavy ion collisions and the physics of neutron stars. The study of dense matter in future experiments at FAIR in GSI might reveal many new and interesting results. It would be possible to produce matter with baryon density a few times normal nuclear matter density and temperature a few tens of MeV at FAIR. Under these circumstances, antikaon condensation might occur in dense matter as it was predicted by Nelson and Kaplan [1]. In this case one has to investigate antikaon condensation at finite temperature.

Antikaon condensation at finite temperature was already studied in connection with neutron [17] and protoneutron (newly born and neutrino trapped) stars [18]. These studies were either related to dynamical evolution of the condensation or metastability of protoneutron stars. However, the melting of antikaon condensate in nuclear matter is so far not looked into. This motivates us to investigate the critical temperature of K^- condensation in neu-

tron star matter. Further, we wish to construct a phase diagram of nuclear matter involving K^- condensate.

The organisation of the paper is the following. We discuss the composition and EoS involving K^- condensate at finite temperature in Section II. Results are discussed in Section III and Summary is given in Section IV.

II.   COMPOSITION AND EQUATION OF STATE

We consider a second order phase transition from hadronic to K^- condensed matter in neutron stars where both the hadronic and K^- condensed matter are described within the framework of relativistic field theoretical models. Constituents of matter are neutrons (n), protons (p), electrons, muons in both phases and also (anti)kaons in the condensed phase. The baryon-baryon interaction is mediated by the exchange of σ, ω and ρ mesons. Both phases maintain local charge neutrality and beta-equilibrium conditions. The baryon-baryon interaction is described by the following Lagrangian density

$$
\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{L}_B &= \sum_{B=n,p} \bar{\Psi}_B \left(i\gamma_\mu \partial^\mu - m_B + g_{\sigma B}\sigma - g_{\omega B}\gamma_\mu \omega^\mu - g_{\rho B}\gamma_\mu t_B \cdot \boldsymbol{\rho}^\mu\right)\Psi_B \\
&+ \frac{1}{2}\left(\partial_\mu \sigma \partial^\mu \sigma - m_\sigma^2 \sigma^2\right) - U(\sigma) \\
&- \frac{1}{4}\omega_{\mu\nu}\omega^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2}m_\omega^2 \omega_\mu \omega^\mu - \frac{1}{4}\boldsymbol{\rho}_{\mu\nu}\cdot\boldsymbol{\rho}^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2}m_\rho^2 \boldsymbol{\rho}_\mu \cdot \boldsymbol{\rho}^\mu \ .
\end{aligned}
\tag{1}
$$

Here ψ_B denotes the Dirac bispinor for baryons B with vacuum mass m_B and the isospin operator is t_B. The scalar self-interaction term [19] is

$$
U(\sigma) = \frac{1}{3}g_2 \sigma^3 + \frac{1}{4}g_3 \sigma^4 \ .
\tag{2}
$$

The thermodynamic potential per unit volume for nucleons is given by [20],

$$
\begin{aligned}
\frac{\Omega_N}{V} &= \frac{1}{2}m_\sigma^2 \sigma^2 + \frac{1}{3}g_2 \sigma^3 + \frac{1}{4}g_3 \sigma^4 - \frac{1}{2}m_\omega^2 \omega_0^2 - \frac{1}{2}m_\rho^2 \rho_{03}^2 \\
&- 2T \sum_{i=n,p} \int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3}[ln(1 + e^{-\beta(E^* - \nu_i)}) + ln(1 + e^{-\beta(E^* + \nu_i)})] \ .
\end{aligned}
\tag{3}
$$

Here the temperature is defined by $\beta = 1/T$ and $E^* = \sqrt{(k^2 + m_N^{*2})}$. The effective baryon mass is $m_N^* = m_N - g_{\sigma N}\sigma$. Neutron and proton chemical potentials are given by $\mu_n = \nu_n + g_{\omega N}\omega_0 - \frac{1}{2}g_{\rho N}\rho_{03}$ and $\mu_p = \nu_p + g_{\omega N}\omega_0 + \frac{1}{2}g_{\rho N}\rho_{03}$. The number density of i(=n,p)th

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baryon is $n_i = 2 \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \left(\frac{1}{e^{\beta(E^*-\nu_i)}+1} - \frac{1}{e^{\beta(E^*+\nu_i)}+1} \right)$. The pressure due to nucleons is given by $P_N = -\Omega_N/V$. The explicit form of the energy density is given below,

$$
\begin{aligned}
\epsilon_N &= \frac{1}{2}m_\sigma^2\sigma^2 + \frac{1}{3}g_2\sigma^3 + \frac{1}{4}g_3\sigma^4 + \frac{1}{2}m_\omega^2\omega_0^2 + \frac{1}{2}m_\rho^2\rho_{03}^2 \\
&\quad + 2\sum_{i=n,p} \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} E^* \left(\frac{1}{e^{\beta(E^*-\nu_i)}+1} + \frac{1}{e^{\beta(E^*+\nu_i)}+1} \right) .
\end{aligned} \tag{4}
$$

We can calculate the entropy density of nucleons using $\mathcal{S}_N = \beta \left(\epsilon_N + P_N - \sum_{i=n,p} \mu_i n_i \right)$. The entropy density per baryon is given by $\mathcal{S}_N/n_b$ where n_b is the total baryon density. Similarly, we calculate number densities, energy densities and pressures of electrons, muons and their antiparticles using the thermodynamic potential per unit volume

$$
\frac{\Omega_L}{V} = -2T\sum_l \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3}[ln(1 + e^{-\beta(E_l-\mu_l)}) + ln(1 + e^{-\beta(E_l+\mu_l)})] . \tag{5}
$$

We treat the (anti)kaon-baryon interaction in the same footing as the baryon-baryon interaction. The Lagrangian density for (anti)kaons in the minimal coupling scheme is [7, 14],

$$
\mathcal{L}_K = D_\mu^*\bar{K}D^\mu K - m_K^{*2}\bar{K}K , \tag{6}
$$

where the covariant derivative is $D_\mu = \partial_\mu + ig_{\omega K}\omega_\mu + ig_{\rho K}t_K \cdot \boldsymbol{\rho}_\mu$ and the effective mass of (anti)kaons is $m_K^* = m_K - g_{\sigma K}\sigma$.

We adopt the finite temperature treatment of antikaon condensation by Pons et al. [18] in our calculation. Once the antikaon condensation sets in, the thermodynamic potential for antikaons is given by,

$$
\frac{\Omega_K}{V} = T \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3}[ln(1 - e^{-\beta(\omega_{K^-}-\mu)}) + ln(1 - e^{-\beta(\omega_{K^+}+\mu)})] . \tag{7}
$$

The in-medium energies of $K^\pm$ mesons are given by

$$
\omega_{K^\pm} = \sqrt{(p^2 + m_K^{*2})} \pm \left(g_{\omega K}\omega_0 + \frac{1}{2}g_{\rho K}\rho_{03} \right) , \tag{8}
$$

and μ is the chemical potential of K^- mesons and is given by $\mu = \mu_n - \mu_p$. The threshold condition for K^- condensation is given by $\mu = \omega_{K^-} = m_K^* - g_{\omega K}\omega_0 - \frac{1}{2}g_{\rho K}\rho_{03}$.

The meson field equations in the presence of the condensed are,

$$m_\sigma^2 \sigma = -\frac{\partial U}{\partial \sigma} + \sum_{B=n,p} g_{\sigma N} n_B^S + g_{\sigma K} \left(n_K^C + n_K^S \right) , \tag{9}$$

$$m_\omega^2 \omega_0 = \sum_{B=n,p} g_{\omega N} n_B - g_{\omega K} n_K , \tag{10}$$

$$m_\rho^2 \rho_{03} = \sum_{B=n,p} g_{\rho N} I_{3B} n_B - \frac{1}{2} g_{\rho K} n_K , \tag{11}$$

where isospin projection for baryons B is I_{3B}.

Scalar densities for baryons and (anti)kaons are respectively

$$n_B^S = 2 \int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{m_B^*}{E^*} \left(\frac{1}{e^{\beta(E^*-\nu_B)}+1} + \frac{1}{e^{\beta(E^*+\nu_B)}+1} \right) , \tag{12}$$

$$n_K^S = \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{m_K^*}{\sqrt{p^2 + m_K^{*2}}} \left(\frac{1}{e^{\beta(\omega_{K^-}-\mu)}-1} + \frac{1}{e^{\beta(\omega_{K^+}+\mu)}-1} \right) . \tag{13}$$

The net (anti)kaon number density is given by

$$n_K = n_K^C + n_K^T , \tag{14}$$

where n_K^C gives the condensate density and n_K^T represents the thermal density. Again the thermal (anti)kaon density is given by,

$$n_K^T = \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} \left(\frac{1}{e^{\beta(\omega_{K^-}-\mu)}-1} - \frac{1}{e^{\beta(\omega_{K^+}+\mu)}-1} \right) . \tag{15}$$

It is straight forward to calculate the pressure of thermal (anti)kaons $P_K = -\Omega_K/V$. The condensate does not contribute to the pressure. The energy density of (anti)kaons is given by

$$\epsilon_K = m_K^* n_K^C + \left(g_{\omega K} \omega_0 + \frac{1}{2} g_{\rho K} \rho_{03} \right) n_K^T + \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} \left(\frac{\omega_{K^-}}{e^{\beta(\omega_{K^-}-\mu)}-1} + \frac{\omega_{K^+}}{e^{\beta(\omega_{K^+}+\mu)}-1} \right) . \tag{16}$$

The first term is the contribution due to K^- condensate and second and third terms are the thermal contributions to the energy density. The total energy density in the condensed phase is $\epsilon = \epsilon_N + \epsilon_K + \epsilon_l$. The entropy density of (anti)kaons is given by $\mathcal{S}_K = \beta \left(\epsilon_K + P_K - \mu n_K \right)$. The total entropy per baryon is given by $S = (\mathcal{S}_N + \mathcal{S}_K + \mathcal{S}_l)/n_b$, where $\mathcal{S}_l$ is the entropy density of leptons [18].

It is to be noted that for s-wave $\bar{K}$ condensation at T=0, the scalar and vector densities of antikaons are same and those are given by [7]

$$n_K^C = 2 \left(\omega_{K^-} + g_{\omega K} \omega_0 + \frac{1}{2} g_{\rho K} \rho_{03} \right) \bar{K} K = 2 m_K^* \bar{K} K . \tag{17}$$

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Further we impose the charge neutrality and β equilibrium conditions which are given by,

$$n_p - n_K - n_e - n_\mu = 0 \ , \tag{18}$$

$$\mu_n - \mu_p = \mu_e \ . \tag{19}$$

III.   RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Nucleon-meson coupling constants are calculated by reproducing the nuclear matter saturation properties such as binding energy -16 MeV, saturation density (n_0) 0.153 fm^{-3}, asymmetry energy coefficient 32.5 MeV, effective nucleon mass (m_N^*/m_n) 0.70 and incompressibility $K = 300$ MeV. This parameter set is known as GM1 set [21]. We have taken these nucleon-meson couplings from the Table I of Ref. [14].

The kaon-scalar meson coupling is determined from the real part of antikaon optical potential depth at normal nuclear matter density

$$U_K(n_0) = -g_{\sigma K}\sigma - g_{\omega K}\omega_0 \ . \tag{20}$$

Kaon-vector meson coupling are obtained from the quark model and isospin counting rules. They are given by,

$$g_{\omega K} = \frac{1}{3}g_{\omega N}, \ g_{\rho K} = g_{\rho N} \ . \tag{21}$$

The value of antikaon optical potential depth is a debatable issue. The analysis of kaonic atom data yielded the real part of antikaon optical potential depth $U_K = -180 \pm 20$ MeV at normal nuclear matter density [22, 23, 24]. On the other hand, the chiral model suggests the strength of the optical potential ~ -60 MeV [25]. However, the K^- condensation sets in when the magnitude of antikaon optical potential depth is ~ 100 MeV or more. We perform this calculation for $U_K = -100, -160$ MeV and the corresponding kaon-scalar coupling constants are taken from Table II of Ref. [14].

We study the evolution of a hot neutron star after the emission of trapped neutrinos to the cold neutron star in this calculation. As the temperature varies from the center to the surface, we consider certain fixed entropy per baryon situations corresponding to the hot neutron star. Here we consider second order antikaon condensation for both values of

$U_K = -100, -160$ MeV. It was already noted by Pons et al. [18] that the phase transition which was first order at zero temperature for moderate values of antikaon optical potential depth, became second order phase transition at finite temperature. Further they observed that when the antikaon condensation was a first order phase transition at finite temperature for strongly attractive antikaon potential, its pressure-energy density relation was similar to that of a second order phase transition. We show the temperature as a function of baryon density for $S = 2$ and $U_K = -100, -160$ MeV in Figure 1. Temperature increases with baryon density for both cases. The temperature for $U_K = -160$ falls below that of $U_K = -100$ MeV case due to the early onset of K^- condensation in the former case.

At zero temperature, the threshold density of K^- condensation is $3.4n_0$ for $U_K = -100$ MeV whereas it is $2.4n_0$ for $U_K = -160$ MeV. Finite temperature effects shift the threshold of the condensation to higher density [18]. For $S = 2$ and $U_K = -100, -160$ MeV, threshold densities of K^- condensation are $4.0n_0$ and $2.7n_0$ respectively. In Figure 2 the populations of thermal (anti)kaons (dotted line) and K^- mesons in the condensate (dashed line) in β-equilibrated matter are shown with baryon density for $S = 2$ case and $U_K = -160$ MeV. The total density of (anti)kaons is given by the solid line. The thermal (anti)kaons are populated well before the threshold of the condensate. As soon as the condensation sets in, the density of K^- mesons takes over the thermal contribution. It is worth mentioning here that the onset of antikaon condensation for a particular value of U_K is shifted to higher density for larger value of S.

Now we focus on the determination of critical temperature (T_C) for antikaon condensation. The condensate does not exist for temperatures $T > T_C$. The density of K^- mesons in the condensate is a function of baryon density and temperature. We find that the density of antikaons in the condensate increases with baryon density and temperature as it is evident from Figures 1 and 2. The ratio of the density of K^- mesons in the condensate ($n_K^C(T)$) at finite temperature to that ($n_K^C(T = 0)$) of zero temperature is plotted with temperature for several fixed baryon densities and $U_K = -160$ MeV in Figure 3. Each curve in the figure corresponds to a fixed baryon density. In each case, the density of antikaons drops with increasing temperature and the condensate melts down at certain temperature which is defined as the critical temperature of the condensation. We note that the critical temperature increases as baryon density increases. Similar investigation is done for $U_K = -100$ MeV and different fixed baryon densities. These results are shown in Figure 4. Like Fig. 3

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we obtain the same feature of the critical temperature as a function of baryon density for $U_K = -100$ MeV. However, the comparison of same fixed baryon density curve, for example $4n_0$ in Figures 3 and 4, shows that the critical temperature for $U_K = -100$ MeV is much smaller than that of $U_K = -160$ MeV case. It is to be noted here that the hot neutron star after trapped neutrinos are emitted has a maximum entropy per baryon $S = 2$ [18]. However, we have obtained large values of temperatures for certain fixed baryon densities in Figures 3 and 4 which correspond to $S > 2$. Such high temperature or the corresponding entropy per baryon might not be relevant for a protoneutron star but it could be important for dense matter formed in heavy ion experiments in upcoming accelerator facilities.

Entropy per baryon is plotted with temperature for $U_K = -160, -100$ MeV in Fig. 5 and Fig. 6 respectively. Each curve in both figures corresponds to a fixed value of baryon density. The end point of each curve in Fig. 5 and Fig. 6 indicates the corresponding critical temperature as it is obtained in Fig. 3 and Fig. 4 respectively. For $U_K = -160$ MeV, we vary entropy per baryon from $S = 0$ to 5.5 to get critical temperatures whereas we use $S = 0$ to 2.75 for the calculation with $U_K = -100$ MeV.

Now we know the critical temperature as a function of baryon density. It is straight forward to construct a phase diagram of nuclear matter with K^- condensate. Figure 7 displays temperature versus baryon density for β equilibrated nuclear matter with the antikaon condensate. The critical temperature lines for $U_K = -160$ MeV (solid line) and $U_K = -100$ MeV (dashed line) separate two phases. The condensed phase exists below the critical temperature lines and the nuclear matter phase above them. Similarly a phase diagram with antikaon condensate could be constructed for heavy ion collisions which might be probed in future experiments at FAIR, GSI. It is to be noted that the attractive antikaon-nucleon interaction drives antikaon condensation in neutron stars as well as heavy ion collisions. Heavy ion collisions in Compressed Baryon Matter (CBM) experiment in FAIR might produce matter with density a few times normal nuclear matter density and temperature a few tens of MeV. Such a scenario would be relevant for medium modification of the mass and energy of K^- meson due to attractive nucleon-antikaon interaction [26]. Consequently, it might lead to K^- condensate at finite temperature. The formation of an antikaon condensate in heavy ion collisions might lead to enhanced production of strange hadrons [1].

IV. SUMMARY

We have investigated the critical temperature of K^- condensation in β equilibrated nuclear matter for antikaon optical potential depths $U_K = -100, -160$ MeV within the framework of field theoretical models. Critical temperature of antikaon condensation increases with baryon density. For the same baryon density, the critical temperature is larger in case of $U_K = -160$ MeV than that of $U_K = -100$ MeV. We construct the phase diagram of β equilibrated nuclear matter with K^- condensate. Further we discuss antikaon condensation in heavy ion collisions and its implications to future heavy ion experiments at FAIR, GSI.

V. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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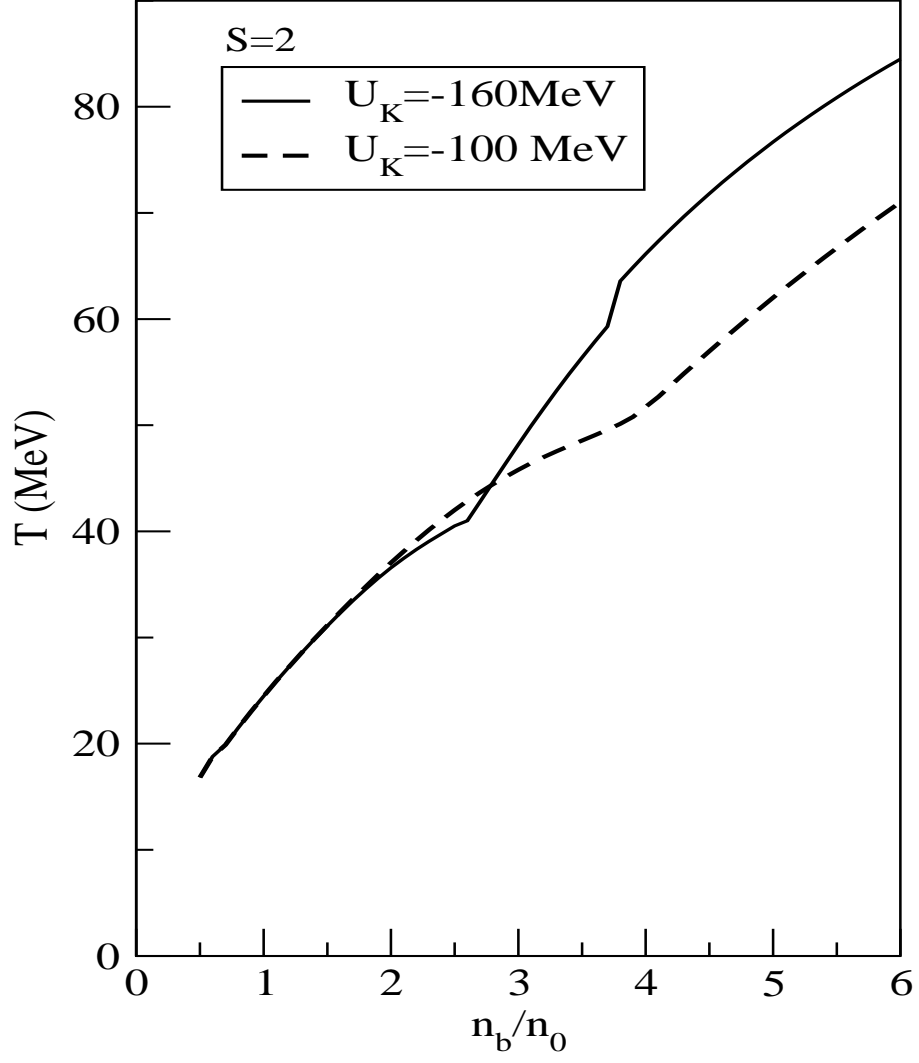[26] A. Mishra, S. Schramm and W. Greiner, Phys. Rev C **78** 024901 (2008).

FIG. 1. Temperature is plotted with normalised baryon density for entropy per baryon $S = 2$ and antikaon optical potential depth at normal nuclear matter density $U_{\bar{K}} = -100, -160$ MeV.
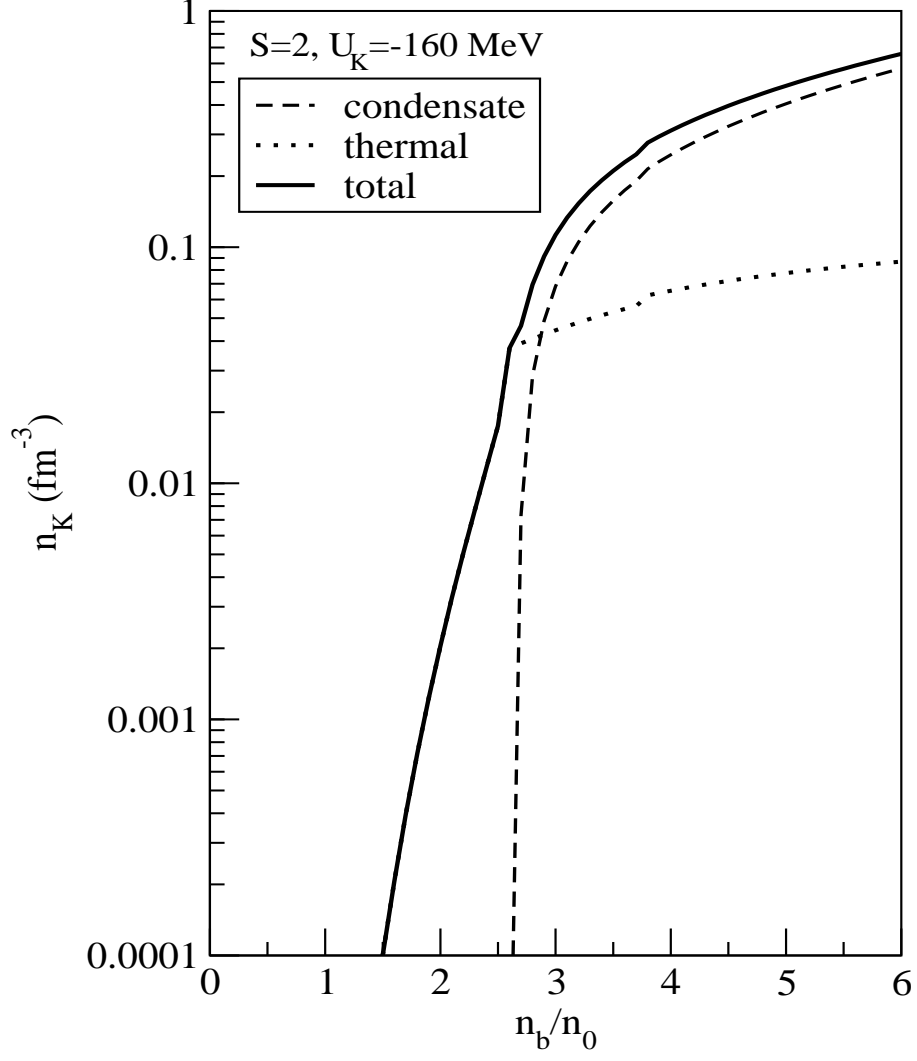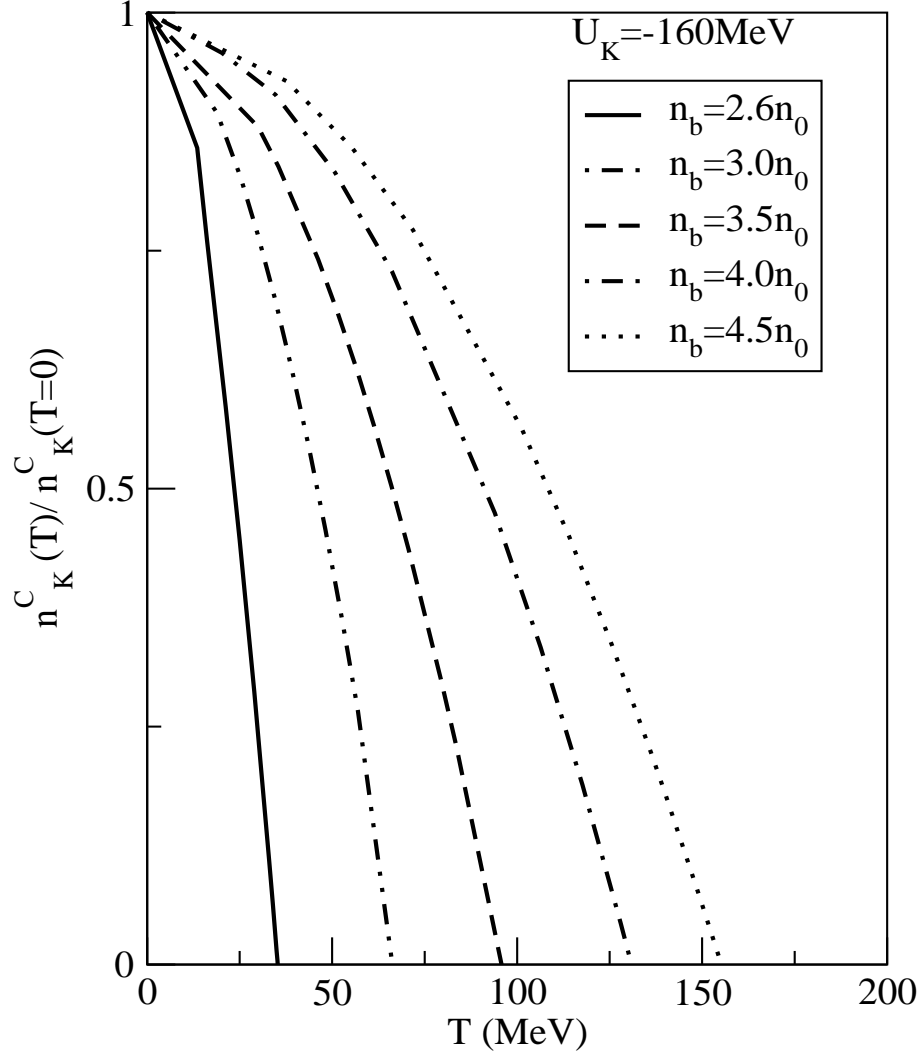
FIG. 2. Kaon number densities n_K in β-equilibrated nuclear matter including K^- condensate are shown as a function of normalised baryon density for entropy per baryon $S = 2$ and antikaon optical potential depth at normal nuclear matter density $U_{\bar{K}} = -160$ MeV.

FIG. 3. The ratio of the density of K^- mesons in the condensate at a nonzero temperature to that of zero temperature is plotted with temperature for fixed baryon number densities and antikaon optical potential depth at normal nuclear matter density $U_{\bar{K}} = -160$ MeV.
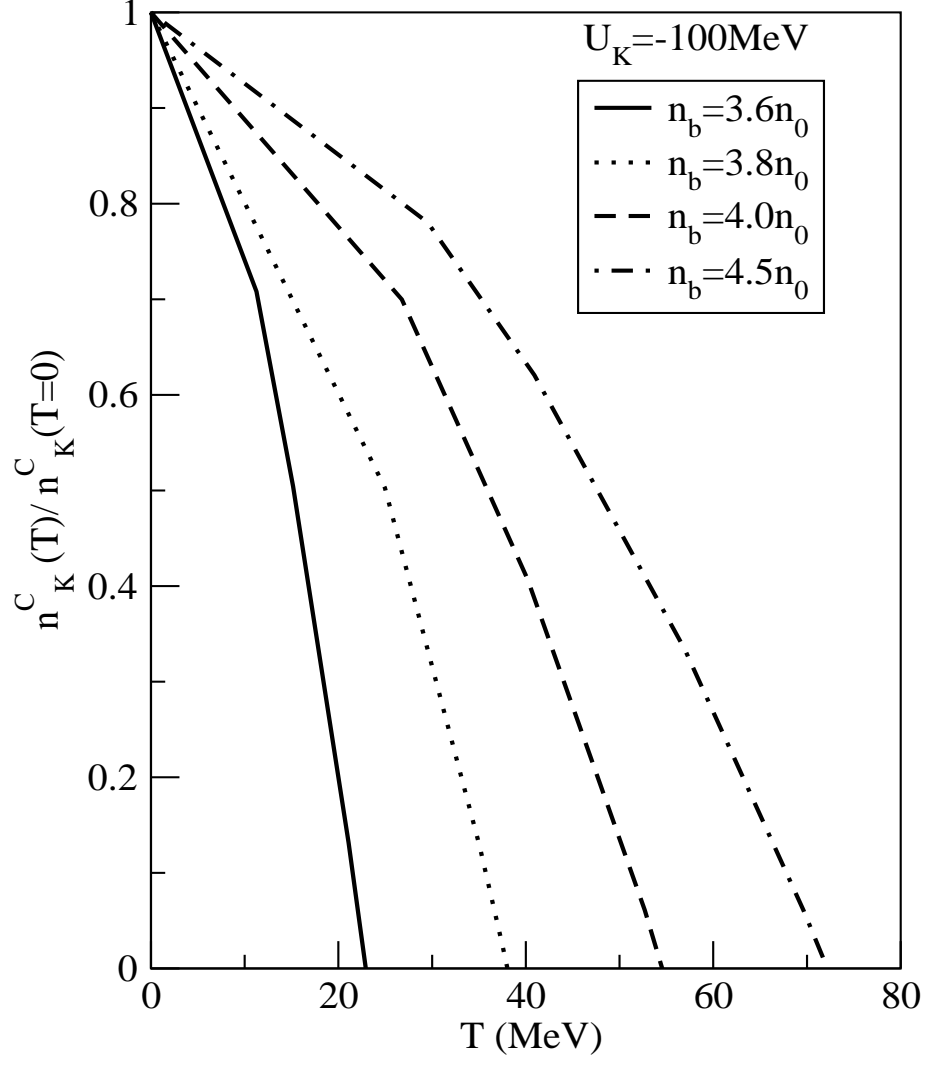
FIG. 4. Same as Figure 3 but for antikaon optical potential depth at normal nuclear matter density $U_{\bar{K}} = -100$ MeV.
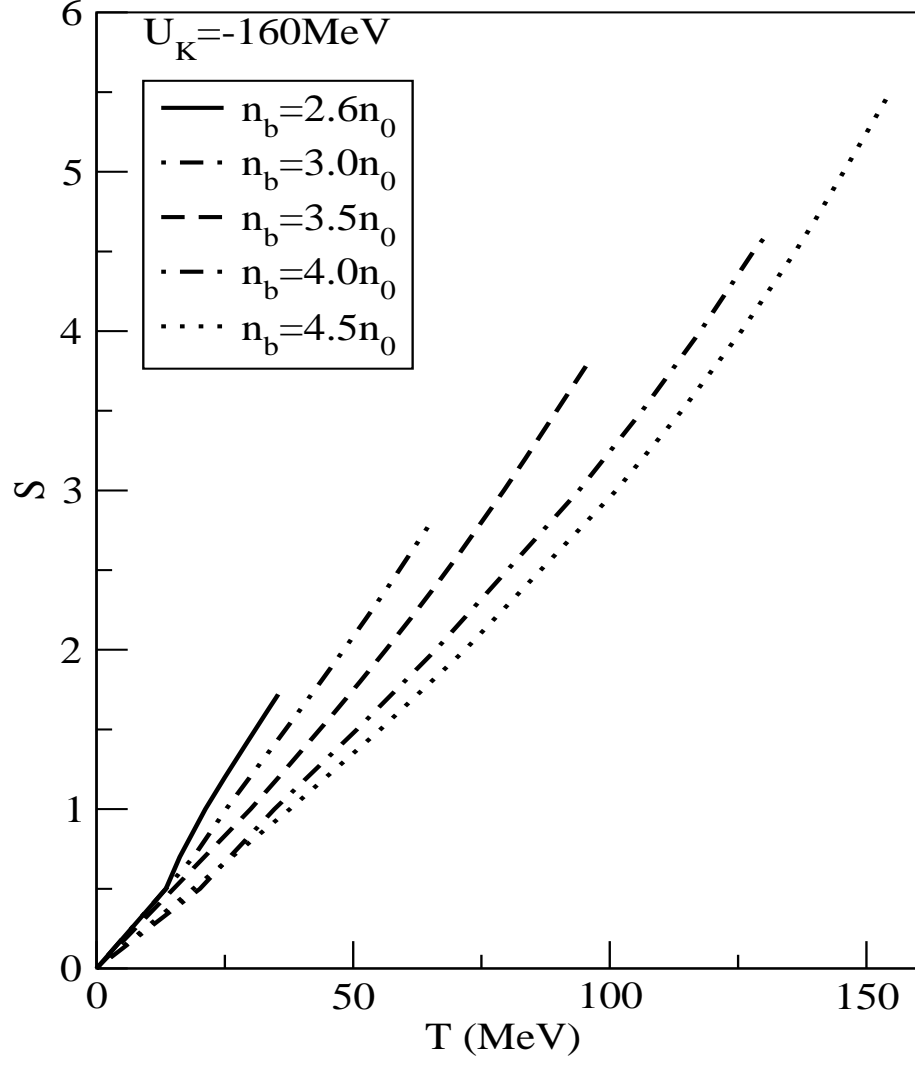
FIG. 5. Entropy per baryon is plotted with temperature for fixed baryon number densities and antikaon optical potential depth at normal nuclear matter density $U_{\bar{K}} = -160$ MeV.
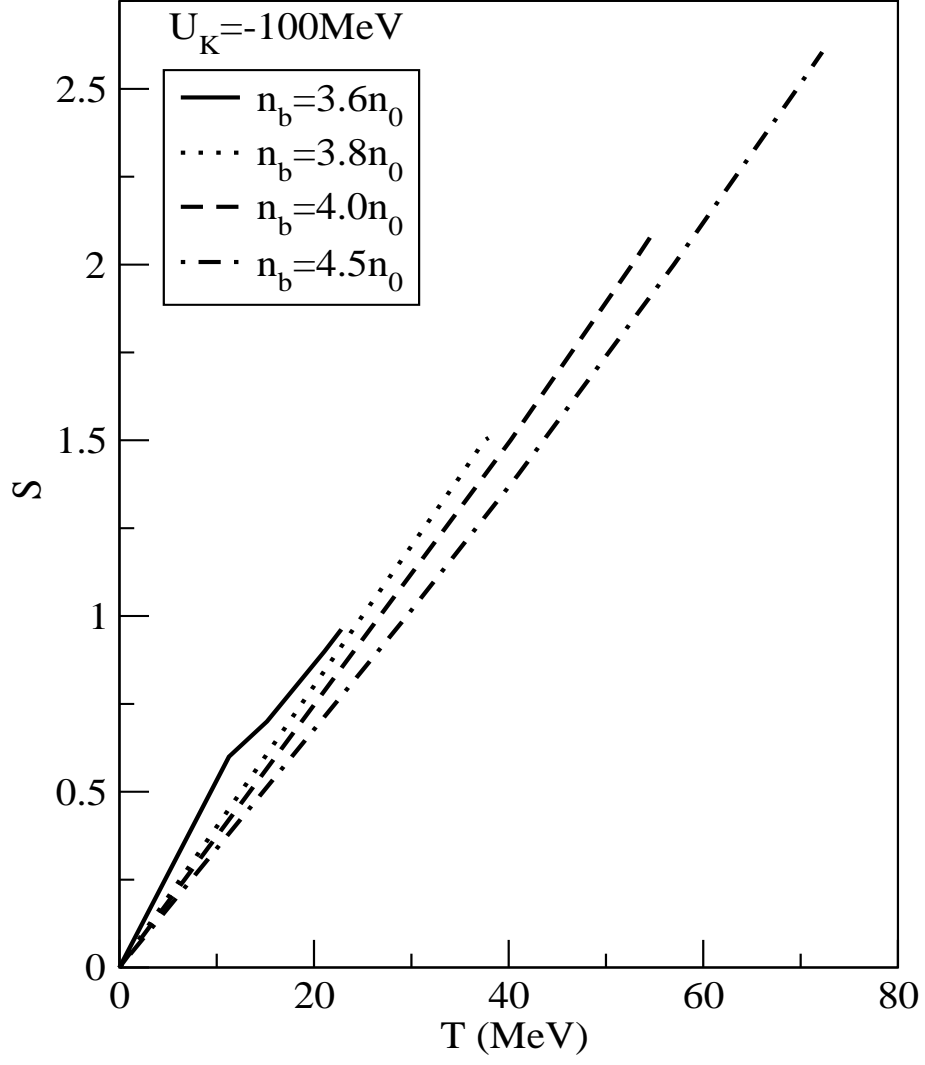
FIG. 6. Same as Figure 5 but for antikaon optical potential depth at normal nuclear matter density $U_{\bar{K}} = -100$ MeV.
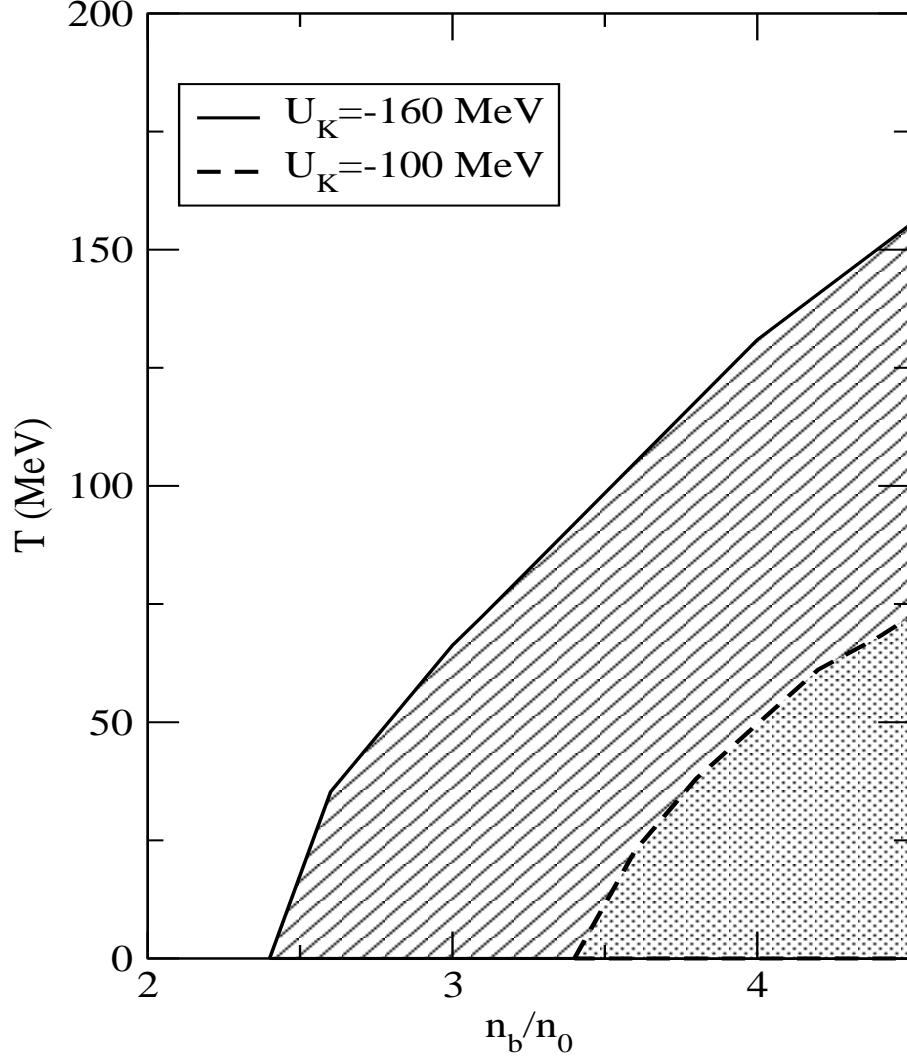
FIG. 7. Phase diagram of nuclear matter with K^- condensate. The solid and dashed lines correspond to critical temperatures of K^- condensation for antikaon optical potential depths at normal nuclear matter density $U_{\bar{K}} = -100, -160$ MeV, respectively.